GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Encroachment by Mining
Gaddigoudar Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest land has been encroached by mining activities due to which the inhabitants have been displaced and it has also resulted in depletion of rainfall and environmental pollution;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Government of India grants prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to use forest land for the purpose for various development projects. The Central Government has accorded approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 1,63,468 ha in 1,816 cases since 25.10.1980 for mining. Use of forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities.

On the request of the State Government, the Central Government considers various proposals for non-forest use of forest land and accords prior approval as per the Rules and Guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulating mitigative measures in the form of general, standard and specific conditions including conditions ofcompensatory afforestation, imposition of Net Present Value (NPV) to reduce the adverse impact of the diversion of forest land. The Central Government has stipulated an elaborate mechanism both at Central and State Government level for monitoring and enforcing the conditions stipulated in the approvals. The regular monitoring of the forest areas,after approval by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for carrying out mining activities, is conducted by the State Governments and concerned Regional Office of the Ministry to ensure that no violations occur and conditions mandated in the approval are complied with. Besides this, user agencies are also required to submit the annual self-compliance of conditions stipulated in the approvals accorded by the Central Government. The compensatory afforestation works are also monitored through regular inspections, quarterly progress reports, third party monitoring and e-green watch programme launched under the supervision of the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.
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